

What is claimed is:

1. A coating apparatus for producing a silver salt photothermographic material, comprising:

(a) a supplier for supplying a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition; and

(b) a slot coater for coating the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition and the non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition supplied by the supplier, onto a web to be coated, the slot coater comprising a lip plane which comes into contact with at least the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition,

wherein a center-line surface roughness  $R_a$  of the lip plane is equal to or less than  $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .

2. A coating apparatus for producing a silver salt photothermographic material, comprising:

(a) a supplier for supplying a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition; and

(b) a slide coater for coating the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition and the non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition supplied by the supplier, onto a web to be coated, the slide coater comprising a slide plane which comes into contact with at least the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition, wherein a center-line surface roughness Ra of the slide plane is equal to or less than 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. A method of producing a slot coater for producing a silver salt photothermographic material by coating a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition onto a web to be coated, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a grindstone of a grain size which is less than that for grinding a slit plane of the slot coater; and

(b) finishing grinding a lip plane of the slot coater with the grindstone prepared, the lip plane coming into contact with at least the photosensitive layer coating composition.

4. A method of producing a slide coater for producing a silver salt photothermographic material by coating a photosensitive layer liquid coating composition comprising a silver component and a non-photosensitive protective layer liquid coating composition onto a web to be coated, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a grindstone of a grain size which is less than that for grinding a slit plane of the slide coater; and

(b) finishing grinding a slide plane of the slide coater with the grindstone prepared, the slide plane coming into contact with at least the photosensitive layer coating composition.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the finishing grinding of the lip surface is conducted employing a grindstone of a grain size #500 - 700.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein a length of each lip is in the range of 0.1 - 5 mm.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein a length of each lip is in the range of 0.1 - 5 mm.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the length of each lip is in the range of 0.5 - 3 mm.

9. The method of claim 4, wherein the finishing grinding of the slide surface is conducted employing a grindstone of a grain size #500 - 700.

10. The method of claim 4, wherein a length of each slide plane of 1 - 100 mm in a sliding direction of the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein a length of each slide plane is 1 - 100 mm in a sliding direction of the photosensitive layer liquid coating composition.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the length of each slide plane is 30 - 80 mm in the sliding direction.